



CITY OF STOCKTON

THE WEEK THAT WAS

Vol. 3 / No. 31

A Report from the City Manager

July 25, 2003

COUNCIL FOLLOW-UPS MIRACLE MILE

At the July 15 City Council meeting, Councilmember Ruhstaller reported homeless people living and sleeping in and near garbage dumpsters located behind businesses on the Miracle Mile, more specifically, on the corner of Pacific and Castle and in the parking lot behind the Alder Market. Police Officers have been checking the area on a regular basis. Some transients have been seen in the area, contacted, identified with field interview cards filed, and told to leave the area. Patrol Officers will continue to monitor the area and take enforcement action when appropriate. (POL)

HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY IN MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING UNITS (NEW CONSTRUCTION)

The Department of Justice - Americans with Disabilities Act, Department of Housing and Urban Development - Fair Housing Accessibility Guidelines, and the State of California Building Code - Title 24 all provide regulations and guidelines addressing the needs of handicapped individuals. The City is responsible for administering compliance with Title 24 of the California

Building Code, which includes provisions for handicap accessibility in newly constructed dwellings over four units, as follows:

- An accessible path and accessible entrance to the dwelling unit must be provided to allow clear access to persons in wheelchairs.
- Common and public areas around the dwelling unit must be accessible by persons in wheelchairs.
- Doors within the interior of the dwelling unit are sufficiently wide to allow clear passage by persons in wheelchairs.
- Light switches, electrical outlets, thermostats and other environmental controls are located in accessible locations.
- Reinforcements in bathroom walls exist to allow for installation of grab bars.
- Sufficient size and configuration of kitchen and bathrooms such that an individual in a wheelchair can maneuver about the space.
- Countertops and appliance controls located in such a

manner that they are accessible and useable by persons in wheelchairs.

Five percent of all newly constructed dwelling units in complexes greater than four units must comply with these provisions.

There are a variety of means for residents to access ADA-compliant housing in Stockton. For example, ten percent of the units ACLC builds are accessible for people with physical challenges. Valley Mountain Regional Center and San Joaquin Independent Living Center are two resources to assist individuals seeking accessible units. There are a number of assisted-living facilities which these two Agencies place individuals into as units become available. For income-qualified people, the Housing Authority has Section 8 vouchers to provide income supplements to individuals seeking compliant housing.

LEGAL DEFINITION OF "BLIGHT"

At Tuesday night's Council meeting, Councilmember Ruhstaller requested the legal definition for blight as it

relates to a redevelopment project area.

Per California Health and Safety Code section 33031, a blighted area is one that is predominantly urbanized and in which the following four components are met:

(1) Physical and economic conditions that cause blight including:

(a) *Unsafe or unhealthy buildings that may result from code violations, dilapidation and deterioration, defective design or physical construction, faulty or inadequate utilities, or similar factors.*

(b) *Conditions preventing or substantially hindering the effective use or capacity of buildings, which may be caused by substandard design, inadequate size given present market conditions, lack of parking or similar factors.*

(c) *Adjacent or nearby uses that are incompatible with each other and prevent economic development of the area.*

(d) *The existence of subdivided lots in multiple ownership of irregular form and shape and inadequate size for proper development.*

(e) *Depreciated or stagnant property values or impaired investments, including but not necessarily limited to properties containing hazardous waste and requiring redevelopment remediation authority.*

(f) *Abnormally high business vacancies, abnormally low lease rates, high turnover rates, abandoned buildings, or excess vacant lots in an area developed for urban use and served by utilities.*

(g) *Lack of necessary commercial facilities normally found in neighborhoods (e.g., grocery stores, drug stores, banks, lending institutions).*

(h) *Residential overcrowding that had led to public safety and welfare problems.*

(i) *An excess of bars, liquor stores, or other businesses catering exclusively to adults that has led to public safety and welfare problems.*

(j) *A high crime rate constituting a serious threat to public safety and welfare.*

(2) are so prevalent and so substantial that it causes a reduction or lack of proper utilization of an area to an extent; (3) that it constitutes a serious physical and economic burden on the community; and (4) which cannot reasonably be expected to be reversed by private and/or governmental action, without redevelopment.

While the above conditions must be substantial and prevalent in the project area, the law also notes that non-blighted properties within a blighted area may be necessary for inclusion to enable coordinated, comprehensive planning and development of an entire project area.

In addition, as part of the plan adoption process, the Agency is required to document blighting conditions in great detail in order to include an area as part of the project. Thus, if further documentation notes that areas should be eliminated, they will be dropped from the area prior to the final boundaries being submitted to the Council for consideration next year. (H&RD)

POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS/INCIDENTS

During the period July 17-23, the Stockton Police Department handled 6,855 calls for service, incidents, and/or reports. (POL)

COMMUNITY HEALTH ACTION TEAM (CHAT)

CHAT conducted a preliminary inspection of a 52-unit complex in the 300 block of East Flora. Four vehicles were towed for no registration or inoperable conditions. Two arrests were made for possession of drug paraphernalia and a parole

violation. Thirty-three abatements were opened and two were closed. (POL)

GANG STREET ENFORCEMENT TEAM (GSET)

During July 7-20, the GSET conducted 156 field interviews; made 11 felony, 5 misdemeanor, 3 felony warrant, and 3 misdemeanor warrant arrests; issued 21 citations; towed 6 cars; made 36 traffic stops; did 2 probation searches; and confiscated .50 grams of methamphetamine, .75 grams of rock cocaine, and 9.1 grams of marijuana. Year to date 2003, the GSET has confiscated 61 guns, and 380 guns since its inception. (POL)

PROSTITUTION MISSIONS

The Police Department recently completed 5 prostitution missions with a female Police decoy, resulting in the arrest of 28 males, and 5 female prostitutes. Twenty-four vehicles were seized during the missions, with a value of approximately \$19,000. (POL)

TRUANCY

During the period July 14-18, 7 juveniles were processed for truancy, with 1 repeat offender. (POL)

FELONY ARREST

On July 17, at San Joaquin and Hazelton, a Police Officer spotted a transient who he knew had four felony warrants for his arrest. As the Police And Corrections Team (PACT) attempted to contact the subject, he ran. He was taken into custody in Mormon Slough and arrested for four drug sales warrants. (POL)

FORGERY/FRAUD

An Officer responding to a call of a subject who ordered flowers from J&S Flowers

using a stolen credit card contacted the subject when she arrived to pick up her order. The subject was wanted for similar cases and arrested. A search of her backpack revealed numerous pieces of stolen mail, which were turned over to an U.S. Postal Inspector, in addition to a crack pipe and several cell phones. The 23-year-old suspect was charged with 11 theft/forgery/fraud-related charges, in addition to a warrant and drug-related charges. (POL)

SPOUSAL ABUSE/D.V.

On July 17, a suspect who had assaulted his girlfriend and held her against her will in a residence in the 3000 block of Wentworth fled from Police and was located hiding on a nearby rooftop. As he jumped from the roof, he broke his ankle, assisting in his capture and arrest. On July 19, Police Dispatchers received a 9-1-1 hang-up from a residence in the 900 block of Woodbury. When they called the number back, a male claimed everything was okay, and a female was heard yelling for help in the background. The suspect fled before Police arrived. Officers found the victim had been beaten and strangled, and that the suspect had threatened to kill her if she called Police. The suspect called Dispatch from his business, but hung up. Officers responded to the business location and took him into custody. On July 22, a man who was wanted for multiple domestic violence crimes against his estranged wife, entered her residence, located in the 800 block of South Sierra Nevada, with a collection of tools he had used to remove an air conditioner to access the home. Once inside, the man threatened the victim's mother until he found the victim and repeatedly threatened to kill her as he

held a handgun to her head. When the mother tried to intervene, the man produced a roll of duct tape from his tool bag and tried to restrain the mother. A friend, who was waiting outside, heard the commotion, entered the home, and convinced the suspect to leave. As the man left, he threatened to return and kill his estranged wife. Officers checked several possible locations looking for the suspect, and spotted the suspect vehicle in the 900 block of South Airport, where they took him into custody. (POL)

HOMICIDES/ARRESTS

At approximately 2:00 a.m., last Saturday, July 19, Officers responded to a report of a subject shot at a Quick Stop in the 7000 block of West Lane. They found a young man in the parking lot, who had been shot and was pronounced deceased at the scene. Witnesses saw the suspect fleeing the area on foot immediately following the shooting. Officers searched the area but were unable to locate the suspect. A team of Detectives responded and began an investigation. On July 20, at approximately 5:00 a.m., Officers found a suspect lying in the street with a gunshot to his upper body, in the 1500 block of Spring Street. The victim was pronounced deceased at the hospital. On July 23, Detectives developed information that led to the arrests of two suspects in that homicide. A citizen called Police on July 22, to report a possible dead body in a truck parked at Ninth and Phelps. Officers found a deceased, unidentified man who had been shot. Homicide Detectives are investigating these cases. (POL)

INDECENT EXPOSURE

Last Saturday evening, witnesses reported a man exposing himself to several people, including young children, in the 100 block of East Fourth. Officers located

the suspect hiding in a van in the 1800 block of South El Dorado. The man matched the description of reports of similar recent crimes that have occurred in the neighborhood, and was arrested. (POL)

DRUG LAB

Last Sunday, Officers responding to a citizen's report of a drug lab in the backyard of a residence located in the 900 block of Burkett, located portions of a working lab and arrested a suspect who had an outstanding narcotics warrant. (POL)

ARMED ROBBERY ARRESTS

At approximately 11:30 last Monday evening, a man entered One Stop Market, located in the 700 block of East March Lane, got two beers, and then brandished a handgun, demanding store credit. The clerk allowed the suspect to leave. Officers following up on the robbery located the described suspect vehicle over an hour later, behind Gateway Court, where they found a subject matching the suspect description with a loaded concealed pistol in his pocket. During the arrest, 15-20 subjects in Gateway Court began shouting at Officers and throwing bottles; however, there were no injuries due to the Officers' competent and effective handling of the disturbance. On July 23, Officers driving past El Torito Restaurant on March Lane saw two women running from a male subject in the parking lot. The subject was holding a purse and began running from the Officers. As Officers approached the suspect, they saw he was holding a handgun. After a short foot pursuit, they took the suspect into custody. He had just robbed one of the women of her purse. Officers

recovered the gun, which the suspect dropped during the pursuit. (POL)

ATTEMPTED ARSON/SUICIDE

Just after midnight on July 20, a woman called Police to report that upon her arrival at her home in the 100 block of East Jefferson, she found her husband had opened natural gas lines in the house and was holding a lighter, threatening to blow up the house and kill himself. The victim fled through the basement after finding that her husband had barricaded the back door with mattresses. As a Police Sergeant arrived, he could smell the gas from two houses away. As Officers began evacuating nearby residences, the suspect entered his porch and began shouting at Officers. Officers attempted to cut off the gas supply outside the home, while Police Sergeants deployed a taser and other Officers talked to the man in an attempt to keep him from returning inside the home. The man was restrained and taken into custody after a struggle with Police. Fire Department staff subsequently shut off the gas and ventilated the residence. (POL)

ADW ARREST

A man returned to his home in the 1300 block of East Sonora at approximately 1:30 a.m., on July 22, after being gone for several days, and accused his wife of having an affair with a man who was at the house. The suspect and his nephew confronted the victim and began beating him and throwing bottles at him. The suspects chased the victim away from the home and then set his vehicle on fire prior to fleeing into the block. After a lengthy search, Officers located the two suspects and took them into custody. (POL)

RAPE

Just after midnight on July 22, a woman flagged down Police at Wilson and Lindsay to report she had been kidnapped and raped at gunpoint. She said she had gotten into the suspect vehicle intending to arrange an act of prostitution with the suspect, when he drove a short distance, pulled over, locked the doors, and put an object to her ribs, threatening her and robbing her before driving to French Camp, where he sexually assaulted her. The suspect then drove the woman back to Wilson Way and released her. (POL)

VEHICLES RECOVERED FROM WATER

On July 23, Officers following up on a report that a vehicle was in the water along River Drive, located the reported vehicle. A tow company's scuba diver retrieved the Jeep Cherokee and pulled it from the water. The diver also located a stolen pickup and pulled it from the water, as well. (POL)

CENTRAL BUILDING MAINTENANCE

- Assembled and installed new ice machine at Fire Station #2.
- Removed and replaced memorial plaque at Pixie Woods.
- Repainted Fleet offices at Maintenance Yard.
- Replaced the foot bridge in the Tot Lot at Sandman Park.
- Upgraded the lighting at Fire Station #10.
- Benches were installed at Pixie Woods.
- Began repairs on the shade shelter at Atherton Park.
- Met with staff from the Animal Shelter about new wall covering for the kennels.
- Lower roof deck of Fire Station #1 is one-third done.

- Contract for the Elevator Conversion Project is being prepared by the City Attorney's office.
 - RFP for Telecommunication Services is being revised.
 - Discussion was held with consultant on the roof replacement for City Hall and an inspection of the roof took place.
 - Pre-proposal discussion was held with consultant about the City Hall Renovation project.
 - Pre-proposal discussion was held with consultant about the Roof Replacement project for Fire Station #9 and the Senior Citizen's Center at Oak Park.
- (AS-CBM)

HOTEL/MOTEL MANAGER TRAINING

The third Hotel/Motel Manager Training session for 2003 was conducted last week. Trainers included staff from Neighborhood Services Division, Fire Department, Police Department, San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department, and a Hotel/Motel industry consultant. A total of 28 Managers were trained last week, bringing the total to 67 managers trained in 2003 and approximately 183 trained since the new Hotel/Motel ordinance was passed. This annual 8-hour training is a requirement for managers to obtain and renew their Manager's Permit. The final 2003 training class is scheduled for October 15, 2003.

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES MONITORING

This week's update comes from Valley Oak, encompassing the north east portion of Stockton.

Camanche Lane

The Property Management Company at an apartment complex on Camanche Lane has contracted with a construction company for repairs. Inspections continue to be performed by the Building Division. Neighborhood Services is monitoring the area and will make a final inspection once the Building Division has approved the repair work.

Jill Circle

Five new cases have been opened for public nuisance and housing violations. One Notice of Violation was issued for severe substandard housing violations. Re-inspections continue on the remaining cases.

Coventry Drive

Compliance continues on Coventry Drive with all properties clear of junk, garbage, and debris.

Cotton Court

Permits have been secured for the roof on one of the existing housing cases on Cotton Court. A roof contractor will begin repairs next week.

Gateway Court

The City has been unable to make contact with a property owner of a complex with numerous substandard housing violations and public nuisance problems. Administrative remedies have been used to encourage compliance with no change. Therefore, civil penalties have begun to accrue on the property for continued noncompliance with minimum Building and Safety Codes.

Cal Villa/Town Home Drive

Ongoing re-inspections are being conducted on properties cited for junk, garbage, and debris in carport areas. Cal Villa

Townhome Association has received citations for the brown lawns in the common areas, as well as junk, garbage and debris in the common areas. Property owners have installed an illegal chain link fence on top of an existing brick fence with razor wire on top. There are paint issues on the exteriors of condos that have also received citations. Neighborhood Services staff has been working with the property owners to remedy the violations.

Carrington Circle

One case remains open as staff continues to monitor Carrington Circle. A new housing case was opened last week for substandard problems in the interior. Staff has been in contact with the property owner and is working to obtain compliance.

Leslie Avenue

One case remains open for lack of yard maintenance. The property owner is in the process of bringing the property into compliance and staff will re-inspect next week.

Greensboro Way

Neighborhood Services is monitoring Greensboro Way for Public Nuisance violations. Three properties have active Public Nuisance cases, with one property also having interior substandard housing violations. That property owner is in the process of securing a loan to repair the interior substandard housing issues on his property.

Acapulco Way/Santa Paula

Five properties still have violations not in compliance. Property owners are working to obtain compliance on public nuisance and substandard housing violations. Re-inspections continue in this area, as well as ongoing monitoring for new violations.

INSPECTIONS

An inspection was made at 1220 West Acacia Street as

part of the Single-Family Rehabilitation Loan Program. The house requires removal of lead-based paint, interior and exterior painting, window replacement, and dry rot repairs. Because of the age of the home, a historical review is also required.

Two inspections were also made this week using the Emergency Repair Program. One home at 1654 Julian Street had an inoperative central heating and air system. The home is occupied by an elderly couple who did not have any heating or air conditioning for several months. The second home is located at 840 West Flora Street, where the toilet was found to be leaking into the subarea. Bids have been requested for both projects.

EDNA GLEASON PARK DESIGN PLANNING MEETING

Housing staff has been working with Parks and Recreation Department staff to coordinate a community meeting for the Edna Gleason Park Neighborhood. The meeting will give City staff an opportunity to share with the community the future plans for Edna Gleason Park. Representatives from the Parks and Recreation Department and project consultant Callendar Associates will discuss the new design for Gleason Park with community members. Attendees will be able to share their ideas and concerns related to the park design. Housing and Redevelopment staff will be available to answer questions regarding other redevelopment efforts in the immediate area surrounding Edna Gleason Park. The community meeting will be held on August 2, 2003, from 9:30 to 11:00 am at the Senior Services Agency Building, 224 South Sutter Street.

COG Building Update

The COG Building construction is ahead of the scheduled completion date of late October 2003. The exterior is ready for scratch coating and the thin brick will be applied next week. The roof is on and the tower is underway. Inside, the first floor overhead work (mechanical and electrical) is complete with the wall framing being finished up and half the offices sheet rocked. The second floor overhead work is also finished and framing and sheet rocking is just starting. The third floor tenant improvements will be installed at a future date when an occupant is identified.

8-MILE ROAD/SR99 AND MORADA LANE/SR99 INTERCHANGES

A kick-off meeting was held on July 16 by the project development team (PDT) to discuss the preparation of Project Study Reports (PSRs) for future improvements on the two interchanges on State Route 99. The consultant team of Wood Rodgers of Sacramento headed the PDT consisting of Caltrans, City and County staff. Arnaiz Development Company, Inc., initiated this PSR development as a condition of their development in the Morada Lane/8-Mile Road area. A PSR is a project initiation document required by Caltrans for all major projects prior to their being programmed in a State or local programming document. The desired outcome is a well-defined proposed project scope tied to a reliable cost estimate and schedule which can be used for programming the interchange improvement projects in local and state planning documents. The PSRs will also assist in reserving necessary right of way for the improvements. (PW)

NORTH STOCKTON PIPELINES PROJECT

The design/build project to construct a large diameter sanitary sewer pipeline and a water transmission main in north Stockton continues to proceed. All borings (sewer and water) at UPRR, West Lane, UPRR (SPRR), Bear Creek and Mosher Slough have been completed. Construction of the sanitary sewer line has been completed to just west of Mosher Slough and is anticipated to reach Holman Road by September 2003. The construction of the water line began last week and it is expected to proceed at a faster pace than the sewer installation. Currently, the project is ahead of schedule and is expected to be completed by mid fall 2003. (PW)

DOWNTOWN SIDEWALK AND STREETLIGHT REPLACEMENT

Kjeldsen-Sinnock-Neudeck (KSN) is currently finalizing construction plans and specifications for the first phase of the sidewalk replacement project. The initial phase includes sidewalks located near or adjacent to current downtown projects such as the Fox Theater renovation and the Stockton Hotel and the Cineplex. A total of four blocks of sidewalks are included in this initial phase which is scheduled to begin construction in October 2003. The sidewalk replacement will be sequenced to complete the work near the Cineplex prior to the grand opening scheduled for early December of this year. Final completion of the sidewalk replacement project is anticipated by early January 2004.

Preparation of the plans and specifications for the streetlight replacement portion of the project is also nearing completion. Due to the long lead time for delivery of the streetlight poles, approval to

purchase the new poles and fixtures that will be installed will be presented to Council on July 29th. Award of a contract for the installation of the new lights is scheduled for late August. The streetlight project is scheduled to begin construction in late September 2003.

The public art component for this project was awarded to Dan Snyder from Oakland who proposes to create brass art figures and inlay them in concrete. The theme for the art figures would reflect the nearby venues and attractions in downtown and possesses a whimsical and joyful nature that could provide a happy experience to pedestrians that are visiting the area. (PW)

TRAFFIC SIGNAL PROJECTS

Acacia Street / Pershing Avenue

The project is partially funded by Hazard Elimination Safety Program (HES). The project will install left-turn lanes and left-turn signal phasing on Pershing Avenue to reduce left-turn movement conflicts with through traffic. Bid opening is on August 21, 2003. (PW)

Lever Blvd. / Eighth Street, Turnpike Road/Eighth Street, and California Street/ Fourth Street

The project will install traffic signals at Lever Blvd/Eighth Street, and Turnpike Road/Eighth Street. The project will also modify the traffic signal at California Street/Fourth Street to today standards. The project will be advertised in fall 2003 with construction to begin in spring 2004. (PW).

Lorraine Avenue / Montauban Avenue

The project will install a traffic signal at the intersection. The signal underground infrastructure was installed in 1990. Staff hired Traffic Engineering Services, the previous consultant, who designed the interim signal to finish up the final design of the signal. Currently, staff is reviewing 30% design submittals. (PW).

Miner Avenue / Airport Way

The project is partially funded by Hazard Elimination Safety Program (HES). The project provides protected left-turn phasing and left-turn lanes on Airport Way at both approaches. Approximately 300 feet of "no parking zone" will be established on Airport way. On September 13, 2002, staff notified the local residences and businesses of parking elimination on Airport Way. So far, no complaints are received. The project will also install left-turn phasing on Miner Avenue at both approaches. The purpose of the project is to reduce accidents. Staff hired KD Anderson to design the modification of the signal. 30% design submittals are forthcoming (PW).

Farmington Road (Eighth Street)/Mariposa Road

The project is partially funded by Hazard Elimination Safety Program (HES). The project provides protected left-turn phasing and left-turn lanes on Farmington Road and Eighth Street. The project will also install left-turn phasing on Mariposa Road at both approaches. The purpose of the project is to reduce accidents. Staff will request Caltrans to release funds to start preliminary engineering, in September 2003. (PW).

MARCH LANE SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT

Public Works Staff is currently reviewing 100%

plans and specifications submitted by Callander Associates for reconstruction of the tree-damaged sidewalk along the north side of March Lane between Precissi Lane and Pershing Avenue. With the exception of a few trees that are damaged or unhealthy, the project proposes to keep the existing mature trees along March lane. In order to do so, the final design calls for reconstruction of the sidewalk approximately a foot higher than the existing sidewalk level to give the existing roots room to grow and to provide a long term solution to the sidewalk damage problem. Cobbles will be placed in the planter strip area between the sidewalk and the existing curb.

The project is scheduled to go to construction in October 2003. (PW)

HAMMER LANE/SR99 INTERCHANGE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

At this week's Project Development Team (PDT) meeting, the San Joaquin Council of Government (SJCOG) representative indicated that SJCOG has revisited the local projects in line for construction. The City of Tracy's 205 Widening Project is first in their priority list with an estimated cost of \$96M. Due to funding shortfalls for both the Hammer/SR99 and SR99 Widening Projects, SJCOG proposed to move forward with just the construction of Hammer/99 Interchange project and wait for availability of additional funds for construction of the SR99 Widening project. The interchange project was picked because of the lessor overall cost and higher local dollar contribution. Deferrment of the SR99 Widening project will free up some Measure K funds for reallocation to other priority projects within the county. SJCOG staff plans to present this recommendation at the August SJCOG Board

meeting. Once the SJCOG Board approves the proposed plan, the design consultant, Mark Thomas and Co.(MTC), will start preparation of the separate PS&E package for the interchange construction as a separate project. MTC indicated that it will take 1-1/2 to 2 months to prepare the package.

Revisions/amendment to the environmental document will also be necessary. The interchange and widening projects were originally scheduled for an early 2004 construction. (PW) Gemma

STOCKTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Stockton Fire Department handled 769 calls for service in the week ending July 24, 2003.

- 7 Structure fires
- 19 Vehicle fires
- 7 Grass fires
- 6 HazMat
- 56 Fire alarms
- 526 Medical emergencies
- 36 Vehicle accidents
- 82 Public assistance

CALLS FOR SERVICE

On Sunday, July 20, there was a structure fire in a single-story, single-family residence at **9320 Tam O' Shanter Drive**. The fire was caused by an electric hair iron placed underneath articles of clothing. Damage was confined to a chair on which the items were placed.

On Monday, July 21, there was a structure fire in a two-story, multi-family dwelling at **1539 S. Turnpike Road**. The fire was caused by an electrical extension cord. The fire was contained to the bedroom on the first floor of the apartment. Damage is estimated at approximately \$10,000 to the structure and \$2,500 to the contents.

On Tuesday, July 22, there was a structure fire in a

single-family mobile home at **8700 West Lane**. The fire was caused by objects left to close to a water heater. Damage was confined to the water heater closet and wall coverings. Damage is estimated at \$1,500 to the structure. (FD)

FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING PROJECTS

On Wednesday, July 23, 8 EMS Technicians and 6 Probationary Firefighters graduated from their respective academies. This marks the successful completion for EMS Technicians with 120 hours of training and for Probationary Firefighter with 640 hours of training. Approximately 350 friends, family and city employees attended the graduation ceremony held at the Civic Auditorium. (FD)

ARSON INVESTIGATIONS

Fifty-four fire investigations were conducted in the last seven days:

- One dwelling was initially burned and two dwellings burned as the result of an accident.
- Twelve vehicles were investigated. It was determined that four vehicles were intentionally burned and the cause of the remainder was undetermined.
- Thirty-nine outdoor fires were investigated. The cause of twenty-eight fires was undetermined, ten were arson, and one was an accident.

Dollar loss due to arson this year is \$839,000. (FD)

WEED ABATEMENT

Staff is inspecting contractor's work of approximately five hundred properties, and is responding

to complaints and conducting inspections to ensure compliance. (FD)

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Supervising Deputy City Clerk Josephine Weber conducting training on "Conducting a Meeting" for the Youth Advisory Commission at their Fun & Effective Teen Leadership Retreat on July 18, 2003. (CC)

PLAY EQUIPMENT DONATED BY SPANOS

The Mike Spanos family has donated approximately \$85,000 worth of playground equipment to be installed at Pixie Woods this fall. The custom play structure features a variety of play areas and two bridges. The equipment was built by Barbara Butler of South San Francisco, who has designed and built dozens of unique children's playstructures in various locations around the country. She was commissioned by Robert Redford to design a global-village play area and a children's theater for the Sundance Institute in Utah. The play equipment is being stored at the City Corporation Yard until it is installed at Pixie Woods this fall. (P & R)

McKINLEY SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Summer Discovery Camp at McKinley Jurassic Days week. This week kids learned all about dinosaurs and other living animals and reptiles that lived on the face of the earth millions and millions of years ago...They also watched a movie with Little foot as the big star on the Land Before Time Journey to Big Water. The children also enjoyed a great BBQ day sponsored by Willy Razo's M.A.N.L.A. Organization.

*****Females soccer season is running in full swing at McKinley...We have 12 teams that played on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 to about 8:30 p.m.

*****Jr. Giants games have also began at McKinley Center. On Saturday, July 19 the first pitch of the season flew across the East softball field.

****Community Gathering for Health: Health walk and health talk. Sponsored by Healthy Children Collaborative, San Joaquin County Public Health Services and McKinley Community Center.

GOLF UPDATE

The golf courses now have the Nike Golf line in stock. We have shoes, bags, and balls all at competitive prices that are cheaper than Golfsmith. Clubs are available on special order.

We have been having problems with kids operating golf carts. Therefore, a letter was posted at each pro-shop to inform our customers that only licenced drivers are permitted to operate the golf carts. Parents will assume the liability if their children operate the golf carts. In addition, anyone caught operating a golf cart without a valid drivers license, may be asked to leave the course and forfeit their green fees and cart fees.

We are receiving entries to the City Championship every day. We are expecting a large turn-out for the August 2nd and 3rd tournament.

WEEKLY REPORT ON INSTRUCTIONAL CLASSES

Week of July 20-26, 2003

Beyond Please & Thank You are instructing Manners camp this week for ages 6-17. The younger kids are meeting at the Philomathean House to learn the importance of manners and positive communication in their family life, at school, and at play. The teen class also

includes interview techniques and fast food manners!

Skyhawks Baseball Camp is meeting this week at Atherton Park. Kids ages 6-12 are learning the fundamentals and strategies of the game in a fun camp environment.

Tutoring classes begin this week at Quail Lakes Baptist Church. School-age children can receive help in reading, writing, and math skills. Classes meet 2 times a week.

Mommy & Me Kinderart begins its summer series on Wednesday at Seifert Center. This fun class for tots and parents is filled with lots of art and other creative activities.

A **dance workshop** will be held on Friday night at the Oak Park Senior Center from 7:30-10:00 p.m. Fee is only \$5 per person, or \$8 per couple. This fun workshop includes lesson and time for free dance to music by instructor/DJ, "Sounds Like Juan" Juan Parache.

LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE REPAIRS

The Bookmobile was off the road from last Friday until Thursday for repairs. Bookmobile staff are using a City vehicle to deliver requested books and collect returned books at affected Bookmobile stops. Repairs of the 20-year-old vehicle are costly because of the difficulty in finding parts. (LIB)

LIBRARIAN HAS JOURNAL ARTICLE

Cataloging Librarian Lloyd Jansen has an article published in the Oregon Library Association's *OLA Quarterly*. The thought-provoking article, "The Craft of Local Practice: How Catalogers are Gaining Efficiency but Losing

Control," describes how the need for libraries to save money in operations may be impacting the quality of the library catalog. (LIB)

LIBRARIAN WINS BOOKS FOR LIBRARY

Children's Selection Librarian Ann Pentecost won 100 copies of ".....for Dummies" titles at the recent Book Expo America conference. The "Dummies" series has expanded to cover dozens of topics and are very popular with library customers. The 100 copies will be distributed among all library outlets. (LIB)

TRACY LIBRARY VOTED BEST

The residents of the City of Tracy just voted the Tracy Branch Library the "Best Place for Children's Activities" in the local annual Best of the Best competition. This is the second year the library has been recognized as "the Best." LIB)

CHAVEZ LIBRARY FIRM ALARM SYSTEM

After nearly two years, the new fire alarm system at the Chavez Central Library has been officially accepted by the Stockton Fire Department. The Library acknowledges the work of Deputy Fire Marshall Kent Miller and Fire Protection System Manager Bob Evans for their assistance in inspecting the installation and ensuring that the system is in compliance with specifications and the recommendations of the Fire Department. (LIB)

READING OFF FINES UNDER DISCUSSION

The Library's Management Group is discussing an idea that would help children pay off their overdue fines by reading for a prescribed number of hours. This reading incentive has been tried at other libraries throughout the country with great success. Overdue fines can be especially troublesome for children when they cross the threshold that bars them from

borrowing more books. While it is vital for the Library that books be returned, it is also important that children are not discouraged from checking out books. Currently, the Library occasionally negotiates arrangements for both children and adults to "work off" fines by cleaning books, making photocopies, or other activities. (LIB)

www.stocktongov.com

New pages on the City of Stockton website include OMI Contract, Sports Commission, and Civic Auditorium. A link has been added from the City's website to the March Lane Extension website, www.buethepr.com/marchlane.html, produced by Buethe PR.

CITY MANAGER'S MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

I held my respective weekly, bi-weekly and monthly meetings with Mayor Podesto; Vice-Mayor Nomura; Roger Storey and Jim Giottonini; Gary Ingraham and Mark Madison; Christine Tien; Ed Chavez,

Jim Rinehart and I held a conference call with Jack Nagel. I held a luncheon meeting with Gary Ingraham, Christine Tien, Roger Storey, Teri Bentz, and Jerry Haleva to discuss the State budget and other State legislation. Steve Carrigan, Steve Pinkerton and I conducted Hotel Stockton interviews. I attended a meeting with Dean Andal.

I attended the A.G. Spanos ground breaking ceremony. I attended a meeting with Tom Volpe and Fritz Grupe. Jim Glaser, Tom Truszkowski and I attended a meeting with Matt Arnaiz, Kevin Huber, Jerry Sperry, Robert Freed, and Steve Meyers to discuss the Public Safety Special

Tax. I attended a luncheon meeting with Gary Miller and Wyatt Troxell to discuss OMI and the transition. Roger Storey, Steve Pinkerton and I met with Howard Arnaiz to discuss the Downtown Office Building Project. Tom Truszkowski and I met with Lonny Odom of Stensen's Securities. Jim Glaser, Michael Spanos, Jerry Sperry, and I met to discuss Paradise Village. Jim Glaser and I met with Larry Mentier to discuss the General Plan. I attended the GPAT meeting. I attended the CDAT meeting.

I attended the Chamber of Commerce GRC meeting to receive updates on the RTIF and the Separate Air Quality Planning Area. I held a meeting with Bill Brown, Daley and Heft to discuss the progress on the South Shore Properties. Jim Rinehart and I met with John Thomas and Bob Herrfeldt and discussed the Channel District Project. Mayor Podesto, Teri Bentz and I met with Doug Wilhoit to discuss upcoming events.

HAVE A GOOD WEEKEND!

MARK LEWIS
CITY MANAGER